

EMINENT AMERICANS IN CHINA.

WHEN the appointment of a minister to China was under advisement two years ago, President McKinley selected Hon. Edwin Hurd Conger, then our minister to Brazil.

to Brazil by President Harrison in 1890 and there acquired a reputation for clear headed diplomatic action in times of emergency, a qualification considered as eminently necessary in one who was to fill the important post of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary at Peking.

Born in Illinois in 1843, as a soldier Minister Conger served throughout the civil war, attaining the rank of captain. He has since been a lawyer, farmer, banker, congressman and diplomat, and his services recently in Peking, where the American legation has been

with the capital were H. G. Squiers, secretary of legation; W. E. Bainbridge, second secretary, and F. D. Chesire, interpreter.

Although trouble was anticipated when our minister was sent to China, yet how many would have predicted that events would take the turn they have since then? Who, for instance, would have imagined a fleet of our warships sailing into Chinese waters bent upon rescuing imperiled Americans, or the landing on Chinese soil of American soldiers for the same purpose? It is a coincidence that Rear Admiral

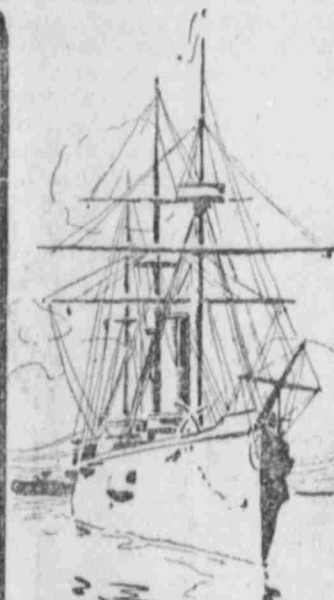
expense of troops withdrawn from the Philippines, but it is conceded that no better regiment could be found to set the pace than the historic Ninth Infantry, which, after its experiences with Indians in the west and Filipinos in the orient, will probably find its march into China a walkover. Its commanding officer, Colonel E. H. Liscum, a native of Vermont, is an old Indian fighter and a hero of three wars. He was twice wounded at San Juan Hill, and, being a worthy leader of a gallant regiment, will probably add to his laurels and theirs.



ADMIRAL REMY



EDWIN H. CONGER



CAPT. BOWMAN H. MCCALLA.

The command of the entire force for the invasion of China will devolve upon Brigadier General Adna R. Chaffee, who, at the beginning of the war with Spain, held the rank of colonel and served, like all the rest, with great gallantry in Cuba. He was a farmer boy 18 years old when he enlisted as a private in the Sixth cavalry in 1861. He served through the war with distinction, winning promotion rapidly, and at its close went out to fight the Indians. One of the first to be sent to Cuba at the opening of the Spanish-American war, he won renown for his brilliant work at El Caney especially, where he brought into play all his great resources as an Indian fighter and was constantly in the thick of battle, issuing his orders from the firing line. In person General Chaffee is rather below the medium height, bronzed by the sun and walks with the gait of an old cavalryman. JOHN G. GRAY.



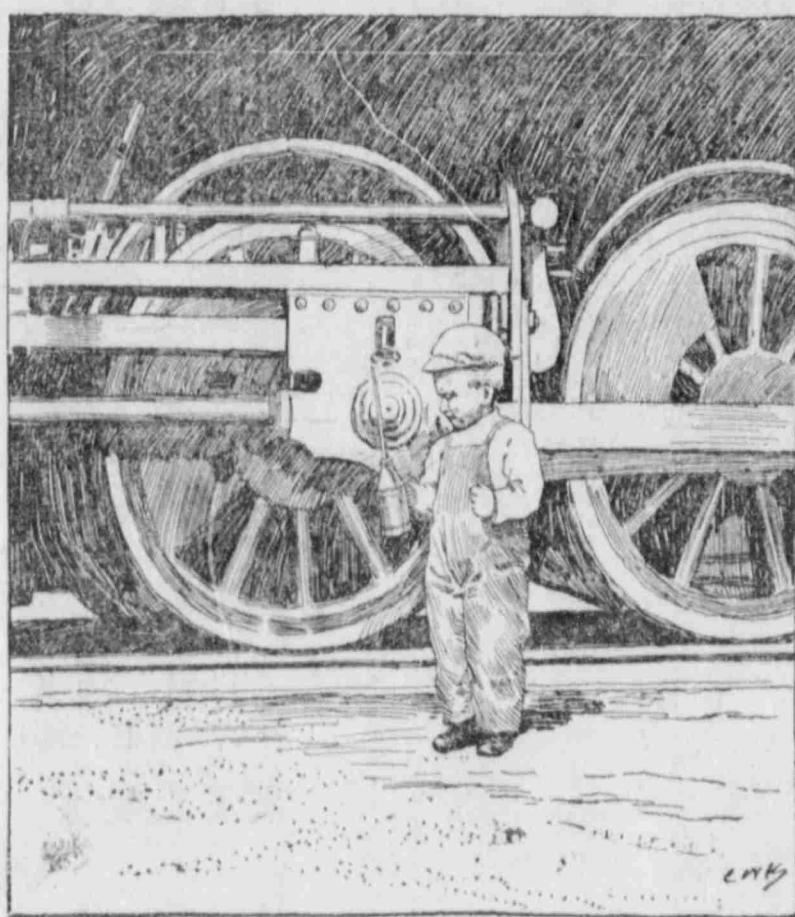
BRIGADIER GENERAL CHAFFEE.

The transfer, as was explained at the time, was made solely to meet the threatening situation in China. Minister Conger had been first appointed

graced with the presence of his charming wife and daughter, are well known. Included in his diplomatic family at the time the Boxers cut off communication

that "open door" in China ajar at the

FIVE YEARS OLD AND CAN RUN AN ENGINE.



If it be true that engineers must be born, not made, then there is the stuff for a future Edison in little Hume Gibson Richards, who was born in Chicago, July 13, 1895. He is not considered old enough yet to attend kindergarten, he does not know his letters, and yet this small 5-year-old can run a locomotive almost as well as an experienced engineer.

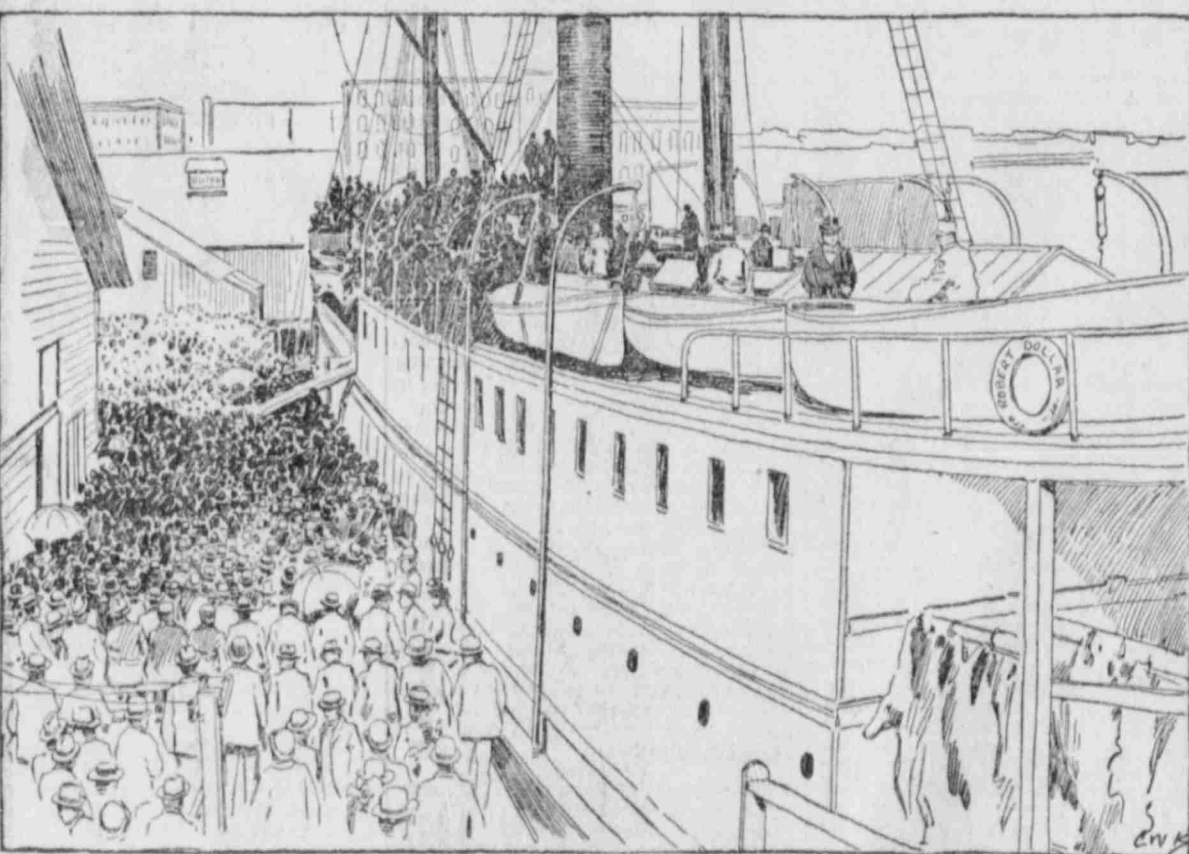
He takes to an engine as naturally as a duck to water, is as much at home on a fast going locomotive as he is in his little bed and has been known to fall asleep alongside the boiler of a "flier" going at the rate of 60 miles an hour. In fact, when he was under 3 years of age he could name every part of a locomotive at sight and in many cases the uses which it served, as well as every kind of car on our railroads and the kind of freight it carried. At 3½ he has been taken to wrecked engines and readily told the names of all the injured or missing parts, while during the Spanish-American war he knew all about our great battleships and could name every admiral and general in our service.

Master Richards' memory is wonderful, aside from his predilection for mechanics, and nearly two years ago he could name every state, territory, great river and lake in the United States and every country on the face of the earth, with its characteristics.

CHEAP FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

A fire extinguisher which may be easily made and kept stored in bottles ready for use consists of three pounds of salt and one and one-half pounds of sal ammoniac dissolved in a gallon of water.

MINERS LEAVING SEATTLE FOR CAPE NOME.



The fact that Cape Nome, where gold has been found in such great abundance, is not only within United States territory, but comparatively accessible, has drawn even a greater gathering of gold-seekers than any previous event of the kind known in the history of this country.

Against the perilous climbing of mountains and boating through rapids, there is only a straight voyage from the port of embarkation to the vicinity of the mines. The winters are just as severe, though, as in the interior country, and, owing to the ice, the earliest adventures this season were not off until the last of April. Then the "rush" began, the 25 steamers that were to leave during the month of May having booked nearly 9,000 passengers and 25,000 tons of freight for their first sailing.

The largest expedition up to date left Seattle crowded to the gunwales with freight and passengers—372 of the latter and 1,200 tons of cargo. Included in the freight were mining machinery, general merchandise, material for a knock down hotel, 1,000 live chickens, 100 boxes of apples, 90 barrels of whiskey, 400 of beer and 20 tons of lemons and oranges.

It is safe to say that, while all expectations may not be realized, the shrewd ones who take up the "general merchandise" will not be the poorest of the lot when the season ends. It was considered a happy omen that the ship carrying the largest cargo and passenger list out of Seattle was called the Robert Dollar.

ALLEGORICAL FIGURE OF FRANCE.

That the French are a people given to surprises and doing the wholly unexpected cannot better be shown than in their latest conception of the ideal Parisian woman, who has the place of honor above the principal entrance to the exposition.



position. The main archway is surmounted by a cupola bearing the arms of Paris, above which stands as a colossal statue crowning the whole the figure of a graceful woman with hands outspread in welcome to the multitudes expected to flock thither. But this figure, instead of being clad in scant drapery, after the manner of Parisian art and the studios of the Quartier Latin, is draped from head to heel in a modish costume of the present day. Herein lies the surprise.

CORK TREES.

The cork tree is an evergreen about the size of our apple tree. The bark is stripped in order to obtain the cork, which is soaked and then dried. The moment the bark is peeled off the tree begins to grow another cork skin, and each new one is better than the last, so the older the tree the better the cork.

The trees are stripped about every eight years, and so strong does it make them that they often live to the age of 200 years. Besides its chief use as stoppers for bottles, cork is made into buoys, making life preservers to save people from drowning; soles of boots and slippers, fancy corkwork, largely for lifeboats and sometimes for artificial limbs. After the bark is stripped off it is trimmed and dried and flattened out. Then it is packed and shipped to all parts of the world.

AN AMERICANIZED CHINAMAN OF THE RIGHT SORT.

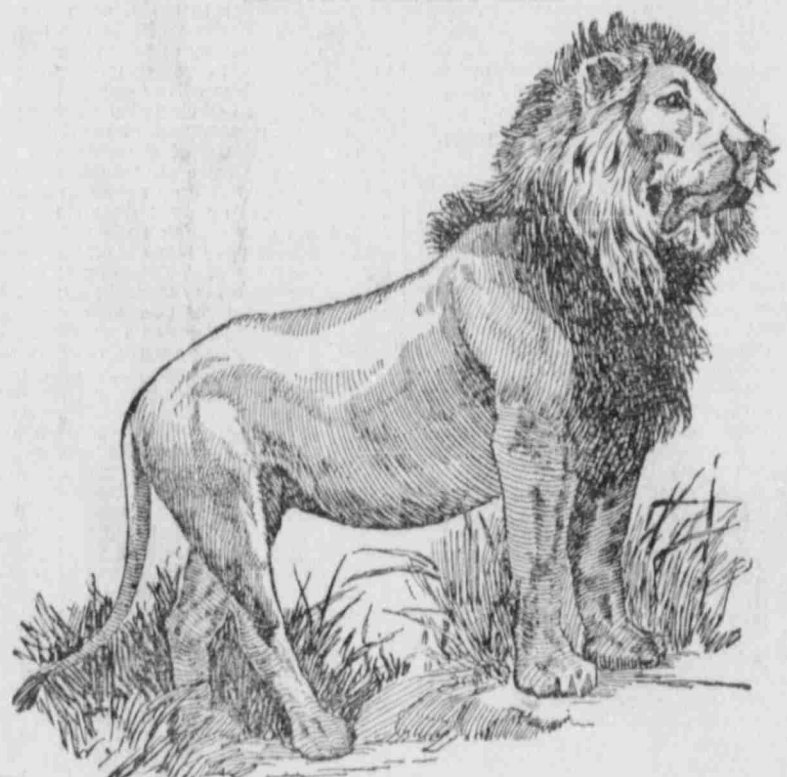


If all the Celestials who come to America were to follow in the footsteps of Mr. Hong Sling, the Chinese traffic and passenger agent of three great railroads and two steamship companies in Chicago, the detractors of his race would be deprived of their stock argument that the oriental cannot be Americanized. Mr. Hong or Henry has had the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" in this country for 25 years, having begun as a section hand on the Union Pacific railway and bringing up wealthy and respected.

As one of his employers says of him, he is absolutely honest and trustworthy and inspires confidence in all he meets by his affability, good nature and tact. His work in handling the Chinese traffic consists not only in securing those returning to China as passengers, but in educating Chinamen in this country up to the fact that they may visit their native land and return here under certain conditions. He is well informed respecting the laws on this subject.

Mr. Sling is married and has a family of two boys and a girl, all of whom he is educating in Chicago. His wife is a Chinese woman, and, while the family live in the Chinese quarter of Chicago, their dwelling is furnished more or less in American style, and their American friends often partake of their generous hospitality.

AFRICA'S LARGEST LION.



Here is a picture of the largest lion, as far as is known, that has come out of Africa during the last 20 years. This huge king of the forest was shot by Mr. S. L. Hinde, the well known traveler, in the central district of the British East Africa protectorate, where it had terrorized the natives for a great length of time. After shooting this magnificent animal Mr. Hinde had it mounted and stuffed by expert taxidermists and then presented it to a club of which he is a member.

THE HERO OF MAKEKING CARICATURED.

It is an indirect tribute to the rough and ready soldiers of America that the latest to receive the stamp of popular approval, Colonel Baden-Powell, the gallant defender of Mafeking during its seven months' siege, portrayed himself as closely as possible after the reports of our western plains. Though only 43 years old, he has won a reputation second to none in the South African campaign.

He is not only a brave and active soldier, known as well for his dapper and energy as for his patient endurance under fire, but is one of the most versatile men in the British army. He possesses inventive genius and a few years ago built the largest kite ever made up to that time, which was 55 feet high. As an author he won fame years ago and in his latest book, "Aids to Scouting," put forth some valuable observations that the German and French commanders were quick to profit by, showing a trained sense for following an enemy's trail and detecting the signs of passing events in nature's notebook worthy of an Indian.



A SPANISH GYPSY KING.

Spain might well be called the land of gypsies, for in no other country in the world are to be found so many of these homeless and impetuous wanderers. Cervantes has spoken of the Spanish gypsies as "good for nothing people



who are only born to pick and steal." Most of these people, it is true, are mendicants, though some of them make a living by the manufacture of baskets and metal trinkets. Others make a very good thing of telling fortunes and dancing, while a number are wandering musicians. The accompanying picture shows the king of the Spanish gypsies in full costume.

SOME TIMELY GOSSIP.

Ex-Governor George W. Peck of Wisconsin, author of "Peck's Bad Boy," was running a little country weekly in the early sixties. It was an unimportant sheet, save one column of jokes which Peck wrote each week. This department caught the eye of "Dicks" Pomeroy, who was then printing his Democrat in La Crosse, Wis., and one

day he wrote to Peck asking him whether he would be willing to go down to La Crosse and work for the Democrat at \$25 a week. Three days later Mr. Pomeroy got this telegram: "I accept your offer quicker than instantly. For heaven's sake, don't withdraw it!" Dr. John H. Girder, a New York man, is the owner of a coat which was

made by Andrew Johnson. It is the wedding dress coat of Dr. Girder's grandfather, and at the back of the collar of the garment is a little slip marked "A. Johnson, tailor." It was made long before Johnson attained political distinction and many years before he occupied the White House as president of the United States. Ballantine, the novelist, is quoted as follows: "When you have spent a

month in Rome, you think you really know all about it. After six months you know you don't, and after 12 months you know that nobody knows."

Senator Depey was asked the other day if he had learned anything during his first year in the senate. He replied: "Yes, I have learned many things, and one of them is that Washington is the most delightful place of residence in the world. It is just enough of a village to

escape the smoke and dust and noise of commerce and industry and give us plenty of parks and shady streets. It is just enough of a city to afford the luxuries, conveniences and diversions that are necessary to the happiness of people with money."

There is a man in Washington who does a flourishing and profitable business in collecting the caricatures of men as they appear in the illustrated

daily and weekly newspapers of the country. When he gets together an extensive collection of the caricatures of any particular statesman, he invites the victim thereof to view them, and he usually finds an eager customer at once. It makes no difference whether the fortunes or the follies of the subject are illustrated in the pictures—they go at good prices just the same. Henry Cooperider, an 18-year-old Kan-

san, recently applied to the probate judge of Harper county for a marriage license. The judge informed the young man that the consent of his father would have to be obtained before the license could be issued, whereupon the boy presented the following note: "Judge: Sly—I turn the boy loose. If he makes a burp, he can sit on the blatter. Let him buy his papers. Yours truly, Albert Cooperider."